

Whidbey Island Water Systems Association

General Membership Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2023

I. Call to Order

John Lovie called to order the special meeting of the Whidbey Island Water System Association General Membership Meeting at 6:00 pm on January 5, 2022 online via zoom.

II. Quorum Call and Introductions

Quorum confirmation made.

III. Approval of Agenda

Agenda presented. Zoom poll launched. 17/19 attendees yes vote. 2 did not vote. Motion passed.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Minutes presented for September 2022 General Membership meeting. Zoom poll launched. 17/19 voted yes, 2 did not vote. Board members all in favor. Motion passed.

V. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report presented. Zoom poll launched. 17/19 attendees yes vote. 2 did not vote. Board members all in favor. Motion passed. Hart gave a report on the status of the apprentice. Sebastian is doing an excellent job according to Ernie at Evergreen Rural, WIWSA will continue to pay full tuition for 22/23 program.

VI. Bylaw Changes

John Lovie – President WIWSA. Lovie gave an overview of the proposed changes. The changes include allowing associate members and individual well owners to have a vote in association business, increasing the number of directors on the board. The intent of this change is to more accurately represent the systems on the island the association serves. These changes were posted and sent to the membership prior to December 15 member meeting and again prior to January 5 meeting. They are also posted on the website. Zoom poll was launched. 17/19 voted yes, 2 did not vote. Board members all in favor. Motion passed.

VII. Election of Directors

Joe Grogan is up for reelection to the Board of Directors. Zoom poll was launched. 16/19 voted yes, 3 did not vote. Motion passed. Board members all in favor.

VIII. Public Participation Grant/ Budget

Lovie presented the public participation grant to provide funding to individual and not for profit public interest organizations increase public involvement and understanding of contaminated site cleanup. PPG can fund \$120,000 for a two-year project no matching funds required. WIWSA has begun the application process for an emergency one-year grant (\$60,000 for public outreach and participation on cleanup of PFAS contamination affecting drinking water wells in Island County with the option for a further two- year grant. Deliverables include website and social media presence holding public forums, education of board members and participation in conferences, training, workshops etc, write articles for the local newspapers, sound waters exhibit, and promote forums and other events, through The grant provides funding to conduct work in line with the association's bylaw goals (providing focal point for information and provide and action forum). Board recommends ETI consulting LLC to assist in this work, which will require John Lovie to step down as WIWSA president. Budget implications were discussed with and without grant funds. Lovie offered clarification regarding the current grant and the next round of grant funding as it may not be possible to spend the full \$60,000 funding. Costs covered by the grant include computer, advertising, printing and copies, consultant presentations, supplies and zoom account. Question from membership asking for Lovie to recuse himself from conflict of interests regarding PFAS and grants. Lovie agreed. Grant is reimbursable, WIWSA pays out expenses and grant reimburses those costs, those costs net out. We will be expected to make best effort to spend emergency grant, this could impact the second round of funding.

Zoom poll was launched for approval for board to proceed with application for PPG grant 15/18 voted yes, 3 did not vote, Lovie recused himself, all remaining board members in favor.

Zoom poll was launched for approval for proposed budget assuming PPG grant is awarded and falling back to budget version without grant if grant is not awarded. 16/18 voted yes, 2 did not vote. Board members all in favor.

Panel was open for Q&A - Discussion took place regarding the king tide event. Options for systems concerned could run an out of schedule chloride and conductivity test. Long term climate change models predict higher tides, the solution is to relocate.

Adjournment John Lovie adjourned the meeting at 8:00pm

Minutes submitted by: Randi Perry